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September 19, 1966

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University
Department of Genetics
Stanford, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you for sending me the clipping from the Washington Post concerning the UPI story about "The Asteroid Peril to the Earth."

As you probably know, we published that same article on page one of July 27. The following day, in an attempt to correct or offset the effects of the earlier story, UPI sent us a follow-up carrying a Washington dateline. We also published that on page one. While its intent was to offset the sensational and rather irresponsible statements made in the earlier UPI story, I'm afraid that it does not do justice to Dr. Butler nor does it present his work in proper perspective.

*Susan
Friedman?*

I'm going to call this to the attention of our UPI sources and see whether any further explanation is forthcoming. If not, we may take the opportunity to use the material from the Washington Post, with your permission, of course, and try to straighten out the record.

I agree with you that sensationalizing science news in this manner erodes the confidence of serious-minded scientists in speaking to the press. Even more important, I'm afraid that it erodes the confidence of the readers and it's certainly a practice to which we do not subscribe.

Sincerely,

Alexander Bodi
Editor

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